

CLAIMS:

1. A method of extracting a fingerprint from a media signal, comprising the steps of extracting from said media signal a sequence of samples of a given perceptual property of the signal, and deriving from said sequence a binary sequence constituting said fingerprint, characterized in that the method comprises the steps of:
 - 5 – subjecting the sequence of property samples to an auto-correlation function (202) to obtain a sequence of auto-correlation values;
 - comparing (105) said auto-correlation values with respective thresholds; and
 - representing the results of said comparisons by respective bits of the fingerprint.
- 10 2. A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said step of subjecting the sequence of property samples to an auto-correlation function comprises correlating a sub-sequence of property samples with the complete sequence of property samples.
3. A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said step of subjecting the sequence
15 of property samples to an auto-correlation function further includes down-sampling (204) the sequence of auto-correlation values to obtain a desired number of auto-correlation values.
4. A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said step of deriving from said media
20 signal a sequence of perceptual property values comprises dividing an audio signal into sub-bands and computing the energies of said audio sub-bands.
5. A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said step of deriving from said media
signal a sequence of perceptual properties comprises dividing an image into blocks and
computing the luminances of said image blocks.
- 25 6. An apparatus for extracting a fingerprint from a media signal, comprising means for deriving from said media signal a sequence of samples of a given perceptual property of the signal, and means for deriving from said sequence a binary sequence constituting said fingerprint, characterized in that the apparatus comprises:

- means for subjecting the sequence of property samples to an auto-correlation function to obtain a sequence of auto-correlation values;
- means for comparing said auto-correlation values with respective thresholds; and
- representing the results of said comparisons by respective bits of the fingerprint.

5

7. A computer program comprising instructions to cause a programmable device to perform the steps of:

- deriving from a received media signal a sequence of samples of a given perceptual property of the signal;

- 10
- subjecting the sequence of property samples to an auto-correlation function to obtain a sequence of auto-correlation values;
 - comparing said auto-correlation values with respective thresholds; and
 - representing the results of said comparisons by respective bits of a fingerprint.